GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:966
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006
RIGHT TO EDUCATION BILL
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva;Senthil Dr. Raman

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the National Knowledge Commission regarding implementing of Right to Education (RTE) Bill in meeting Government responsibilities;

(b) the allocation of funds required and sanctioned by the Centre and response of State Governments in meeting their share of responsibilities;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the Right to Education Bill to provide for adequate central funds, setting a time frame for States to pass corresponding RTE laws and to set a time limit to achieve universal education for children in the age group of 6-14 years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) to (d) National Knowledge Commission have expressed their view that consequent upon enactment of the Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002, the legislation envisaged under Article 21A of the Constitution which makes education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6-14 years must be enacted and enforced by the Central Government requiring the states to enact Right to Education Bills within a specified time period, and with the primary financial responsibility for this resting with the Central Government.

The National Knowledge Commission have also made a number of suggestions regarding, inter alia, schedule of norms and standards to be followed by the schools, specification for teachers, justiciability of the Right to Education, redressal mechanism and universal schooling etc.

In pursuance of Article 21A of the Constitution, a draft Model Right to Education Bill has been formulated and circulated as framework to the States/UTs with a view to seek their comments thereon. In order to motivate the State Governments to adopt the Model Right to Education Bill, 2006, it is proposed that the scale of funding under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) be made contingent upon enactment of appropriate State Acts on free and compulsory education where none exist, or suitable adaptation of existing Acts. The proposal to incentivise the States to adopt the Model Bill has also been sent to the States/UTs for their comments.